

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A process for producing a nanocomposite ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising the steps of:

preparing a bridged clay; and

mixing with an organic compound,

to thereby obtain a nanocomposite comprising clay and an organic compound, in which the clay is a clay bridged with a metal compound in order to facilitate intercalation of the organic compound.

Claim 13 (original): A process according to claim 12, in which preparation of the bridged clay comprises the steps of :

adding a mixture of an oligomeric solution of a metal compound to the clay in suspension;

eliminating the excess solution by centrifuging;

washing the residue;

drying; and

heat treatment.

Claim 14 (original): A process according to claim 12, further comprising a step for treating the bridged clay with a compatibilizing compound prior to mixing with the organic compound.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
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Claim 15 (original): A process according to claim 14, in which the compatibilizing compound is a quaternary ammonium salt.